



Exploring the “Feast Day Calendar” for Norway, Denmark, and Sweden

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The Julian and Gregorian calendars

The Julian calendar had been in use for centuries. Introduced in 46 BC by Julius Caesar. A leap day added to February every fourth year= 365.25 days. That is too long. The year is 365.2425 days. The year, especially Easter, which is tied to the vernal equinox, was getting “off.”

In 1582, the calendar was off by 10 days. Pope Gregory XIII commissioned a reform to correct the aberration. Catholic countries, including France and parts of the Low Countries and Germany, adopted the Gregorian calendar right away, around 1582. Non-Catholic areas were slow to follow.

Feast Day converters

Dates will in a great number of church records (parish registers) be recorded according to the Church calendar, with Latin names for Sundays and Feast days. Often, priests indicated a date by only its feast day name. Therefore, one must be able to recognize and know how to convert the feast days to modern dates. This calendar will also work for Germany and elsewhere depending upon when the Julian or Gregorian calendar was used in a given country. Follow the instructions listed for the following calendars.

The Norwegian Government used the Julian calendar up until February 18, 1700. They began using the Gregorian calendar in Norway on March 1, 1700 (a difference of 11 days).

Use the following converters for **Norway** and **Denmark** as well as **elsewhere in Europe** depending upon when they changed from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar.

Movable Feast Day Calendar for Norway and other Protestant areas:

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Moveable_Feast_Day_Calendar_for_Norway

(Choose a year and the Movable Feast days for that year can be viewed first in Latin, followed by the modern date, followed by the date in written Norwegian)

Feast Day Fixed and Moveable for Norway and other Protestant areas:

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Fixed_and_Moveable_Feast_Days_for_Norway (Choose the first letter of a feast day from the box with letters in alphabetical order, and if the letter “A” is chosen, a list of all the feast days starting with “A” will appear followed by our modern date for that feast day).

Use the following converters for **Finland** and **Sweden**. The Swedish government began using the Gregorian calendar on February 1753. Prior to that they used the Julian calendar. Between February 29th, 1712 (Julian), the Swedish government used its own "Swedish Calendar". As part of the transition from the Swedish Calendar back to the Julian calendar in 1712, the month of February in 1712 has 30 days. Sweden finally adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1753, when Wednesday, 17 February, was followed by Thursday, 1 March. Since Finland was under Swedish rule at that time, it did the same.

Movable Feast Day Calendar for Sweden and Finland only:

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Movable_Feast_Day_Calendar_for_Sweden (Choose a year, and a list of the movable feast days will appear followed by a modern date for that feast day).

Feast Day Fixed and Movable for Sweden and Finland only:

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Fixed_and_Movable_Feast_Days_for_Sweden

(Choose the first letter of a feast day from the box with letters in alphabetical order, if the letter "B" is chosen, a list of all the feast days starting with "B" will appear followed by a modern date for that feast day.

Some Practice problems:

Feast Days: Denmark and Norway

	Julian	Gregorian
Example: Trinitatis 1690	15 June 1690	
Rogate 1699		
Dom. Adventus 1700		
Dom. 10 p. Trinitatis 1800		

Feast Days: Finland and Sweden

	Julian	Gregorian
Example: Pentecoste 1749	14 May 1749	
Dom. 2 post Trinitatis 1752		
Exaudi 1760		
Adventus 1799		

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